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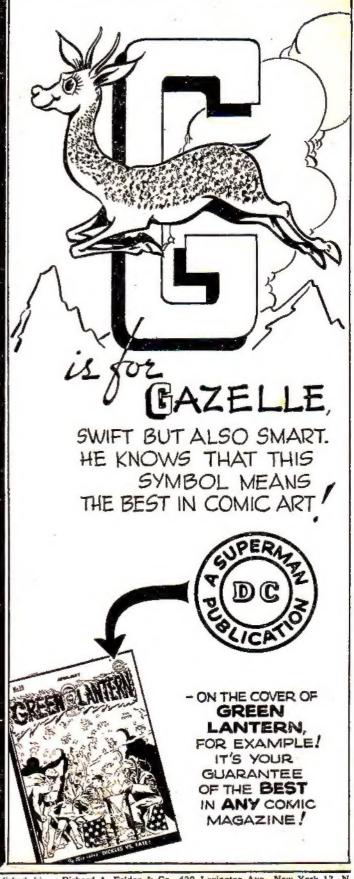
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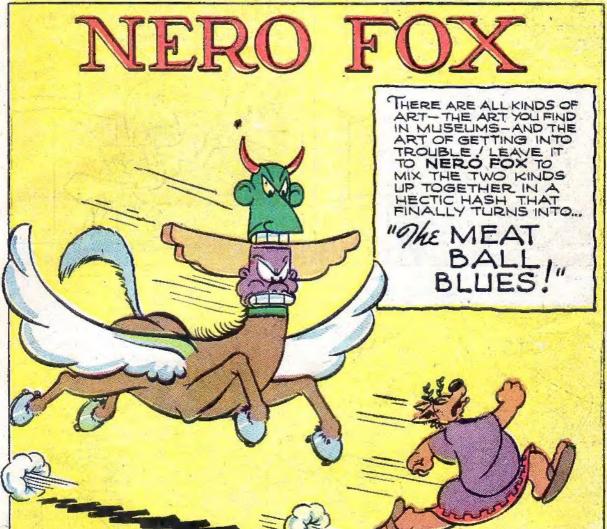
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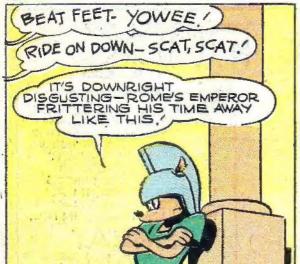








































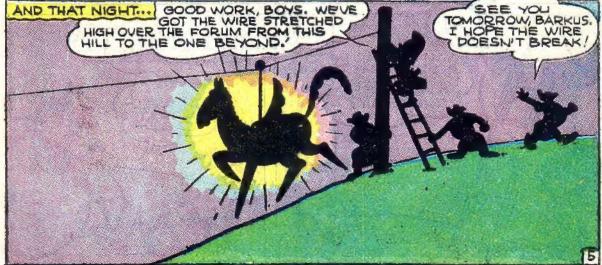






















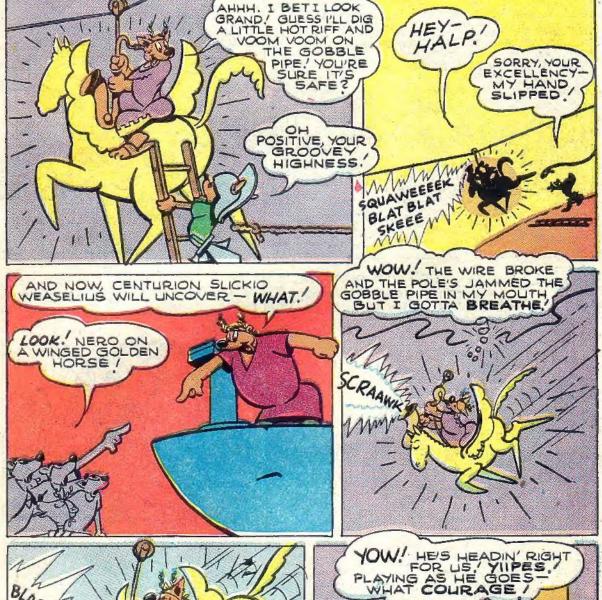




















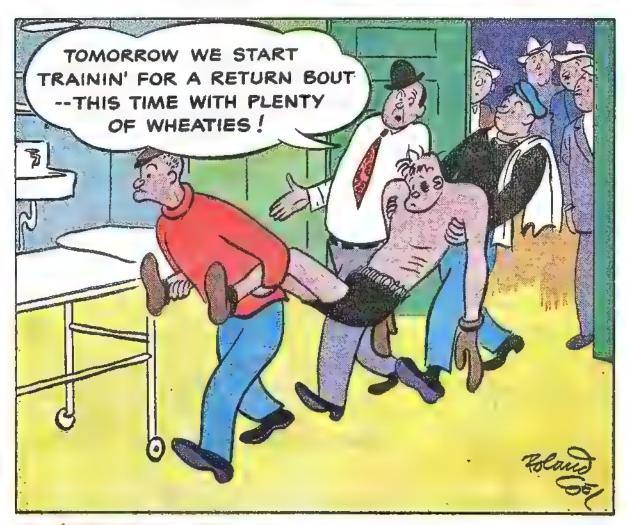








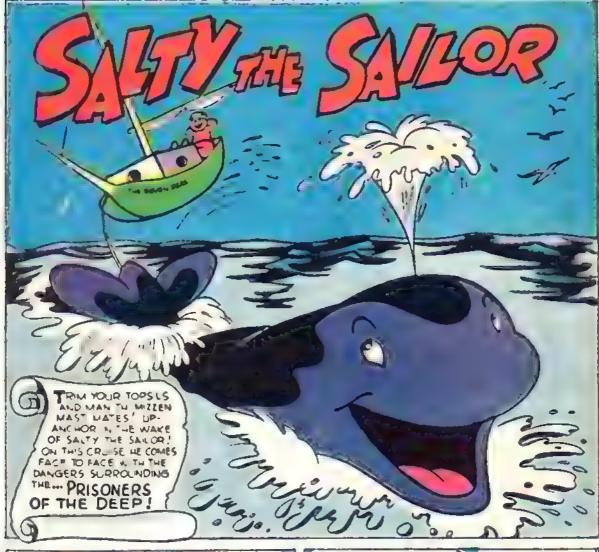




























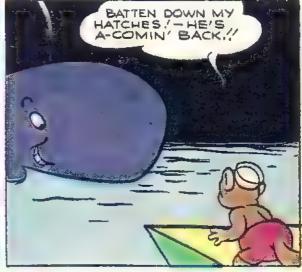






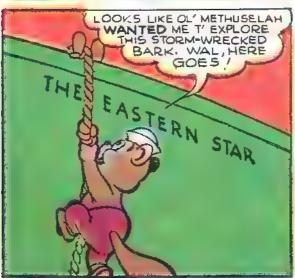












































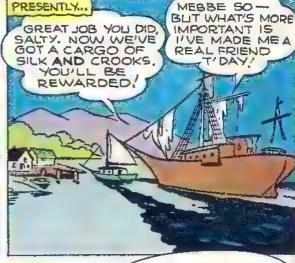


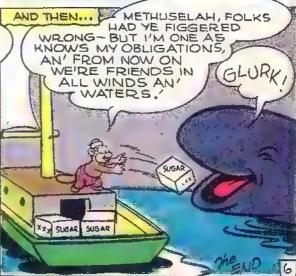
























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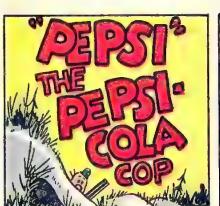








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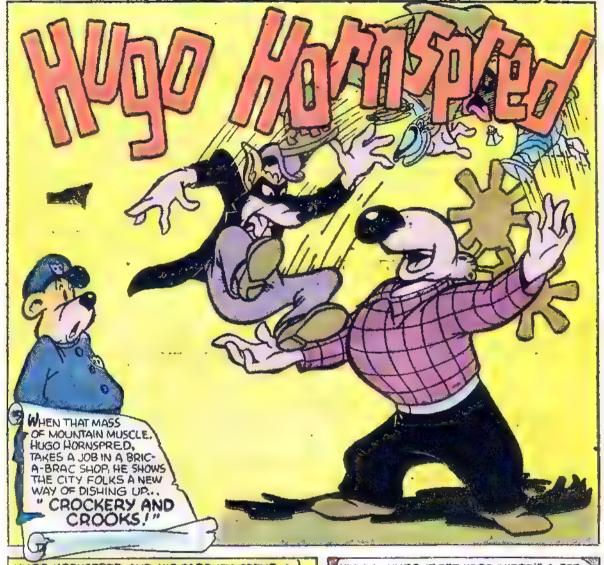
PEPSI-COLA IT'S A BEAR FOR FLAVOR!















## LEADING COMICS



























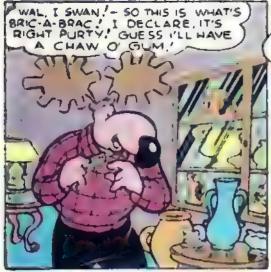


















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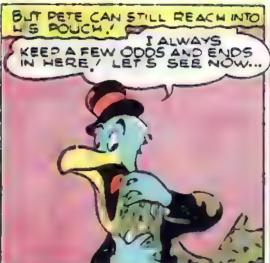






































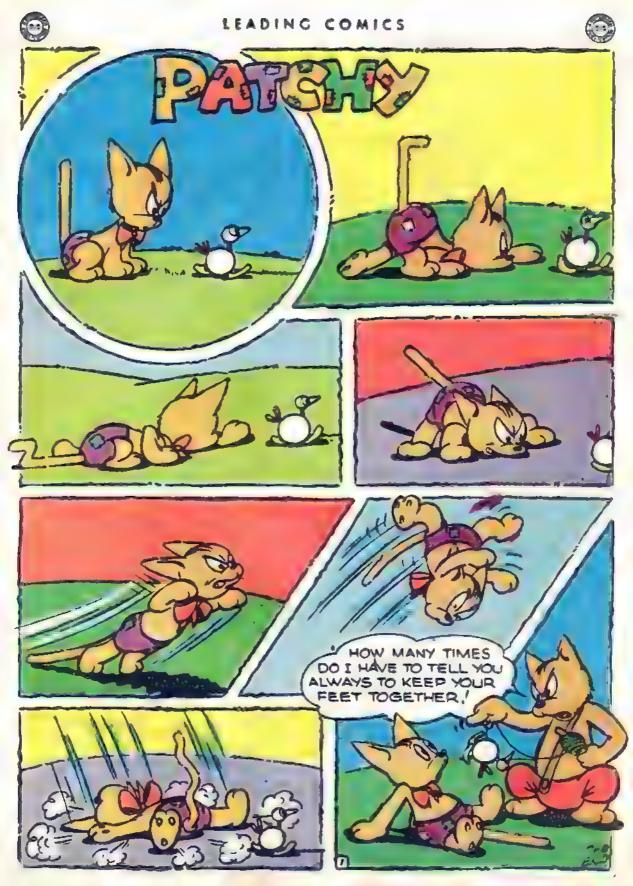


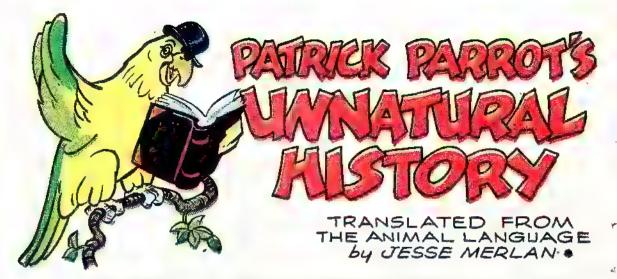












# A SHORT FABLE ON WHY LEOPARDS ALWAYS SEE SPOTS

As the first shadows of twilight began to slant over the big trees, Red Squirrel lifted his smooth, shiny head from the leaves of a small branch and chirped gaily at his cousins.

"Here I am, Cousin Grey," he called to a busily searching squirrel only a yard away "Been right here all the time So you lose today's game of hide and seek. And I win the walnuts and two fat acorns Hand them over."

The grey squirrels gathered to pay up And as the winner began to munch happily on the nuts that were given him, he laughed in triumph between delicious bites of nut.

"Ho-ho," snickered Red "You fellows ought to know better than to play hide and seek against a red squirrel during the autumn season. With the leaves all turning tawny and red and crimson, you never had a chance Nature is the greatest camouflage-expert in the world All I had to do was to sit quietly and keep my bright eyes shut No wonder you couldn't find me, these leaves match my coat color so well."

The beaten grey squirrels did not mind Red's winning They flocked to the tree to congratulate the victor. And just then a screechier voice sounded from among them.

"Shure, boys, and don't be after forgettin' that many's the leaf that is still green. So no one noticed me either."

Every one of the squirrels, Red included, jumped at least a foot and a half in the air in surprise.

"Why," said one startled squirrel, "it's Patrick Parrot! We've been playing in his tree! He's green-feathered and the tree's green and .."

"Shure and I wasn't disturbed," broke in Pat "And I may be green as Ireland, but I'm not green or ignorant when it comes to knowin' why all the forest folk are so well camouflaged." And Patrick winked knowingly and rocked back and forth.

"A story! A story!" chattered the squirrels "Tell us the story of cam-o-flage!"

Pat Parrot cleared his throat in a long AARUMPH! and looked down from his tree Sure enough, the usual audience was gathering from far and hear In the deepening twilight everyone of the fanged and furred and hooved and horned folk was coming. No one ever wanted to

miss a Pat Parrot story.

"Just you clawing and sharp-toothed fellows be sure to remember that there's to be no hunting under Pat's tree, see?" And Patrick glared down at the foxes and lions and hungry wolves below. A wolf is always hungry, and Pat knew it, and wanted to prevent trouble.

"Don't accuse me," said a big white-grey wolf, trying to smile instead of snarl, "I'm on a diet."

"And I'm not eating tonight either," hissed a soft voice right above Patrick. "I'll be good, too."

With a loud ULP! Patrick almost fell off his perch. It was a giant of a green boa-serpent speaking. "Don't be scared, Pat. I ate last week. I'm safe for at least six months." And the coiled serpent closed his glittering eyes in peace.

"Well," finally continued Pat, speaking down to the crowd of forest folk below, "the subject of tonight's story is camouflage. You, Diana Deer, you're helped by it Your coat's so green and grey and tawny all mixed up that no one can see you if you bed down in a clump of bushes during the day to hide and rest."

Miss Deer snodded her pretty head and agreed.

"And even Lee Lion is helped by color protection His body blends perfectly with waving grass or desert sand or . . ."

"Who, me?" roared Lee Lion.
"I never hide. A king as strong as I am doesn't have to." His booming voice shook the night echoes.

"Don't be so touchy," cut in Pat, "I've seen many a lion jump in pain when a bee stung him."

"That's right," softly rumbled L. Lion, "I've been glad to hide from those stingers once or twice."

"But what about me?" purred a smooth voice from a limb in the next tree. How do you explain my coat?"

"Oh," said Pat, squinting through the dark, "It's Leopold Leopard, the spotted wonder. Now isn't that strange? I was going to tell the story of the first spotted leopard."

"Go ahead and tell it then," chorused the listeners. "We're waiting."

"Yes, Patrick," purrir-purred Leopold. "Tell us about my greatgreat-grand-ancestor."

"Well." went on Pat Parrot, 
"you may not believe it, but once leopards had a plain yellow coat 
with no spots at all"

"None at all?" broke in the startled leopard. "Then how do



you explain the fact . . ?"

"That you're all spotted now?" ended Pat. "That's easy. And this is a true story, see?"

"That's what he says," muttered Philip Fox under his breath. P. Fox thought Pat a big fibber.

"Easy to explain," went on Pat. "Long, long ages ago, a leopard ancestor, who had a glossy yellow coat without spots, bent to drink from a forest pool. And just as he was drinking, a fat cocoanut fell PLOP! into the mud of that pool. Mr Leopard was proud of his spotless coat and tried to avoid the splash. But no luck. Because just one dab of mud hit him on the shoulder. Yessir, it sure spoiled that perfect yellow coat, that one spot.

"Because that mud had colored iron minerals in it and they stained the leopard's coat. Just one little blotch. Of course, the leopard washed and washed at a forest spring. But it was no use The spot wouldn't rinse away.

"That worried that ancient leopard. He'd always been so clean and neat. So he went to a big beaver who ran a washing and cleaning business under water

"But it was no use The spot wouldn't wash, it wouldn't rub away, it wouldn't clean and it couldn't be matched. Both Cleaner Beaver and Leopold (Ancient-Ancestor) Leopard worried about it until finally the beaver had a grand idea.

"'Why not spot the whole coat and make a neat job?" he asked of the leopard.

"'What?' roared that leopard, 'and ruin my color scheme?'

"'But it won't spoil it,' coaxed the beaver 'You'll have a swell design when I get done.'

"They argued and the beaver pleaded and finally that beavercleaner won. He took the leopard to the same pool and did a complete spotting job on him. So



nicely, so carefully, and it came out just grand.

"And that's why all leopards have spots today," finished Pat Parrot to his listeners. "Understand?" So the story ended.

Then, of Pat's stunned audience, Phil Fox was the first to yell his disbelief. "Oh, what a whopping imagination! How do the leopard's spots help him in camouflage? Explain that, Patrick! You promised us a story of camouflage, remember?"

Pat Parrot drew his green feathers together proudly and screeched in rage at the fox.

"You're so dumb! Listen, suppose a hunter is stalking a leopard. Can any dizzy hunter shoot that leopard? No And don't people get dizzy from seeing spots in front of their eyes? So that proves it: The leopard's spots make any enemy dizzy and then the leopard can escape before that enemy recovers. It's simple! And true."

"Maybe it's true," moaned the defeated fox "Because I've got spots in front of my eyes from listening to you. Let me out of here! Gangway!"

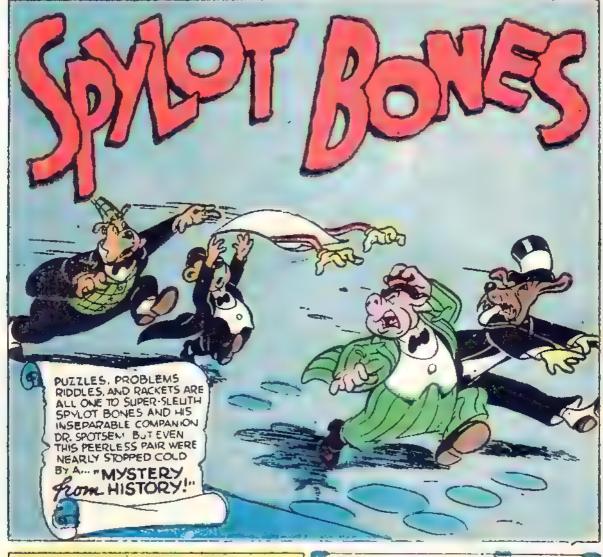
Phil Fox fled from the storymeeting. And even the leopard just blinked his eyes and didn't try to doubt Pat's story.

So that ended it.

Anyway, leopards do have spots.















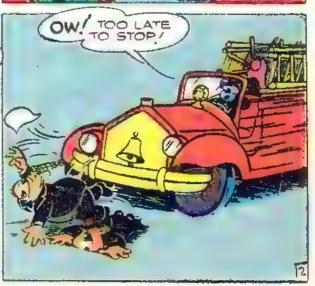


ALONG COMES A SUDDEN GUST OF WIND ...























































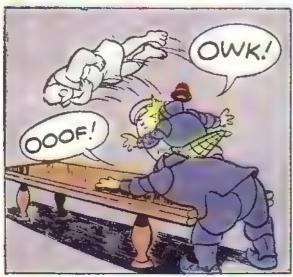
















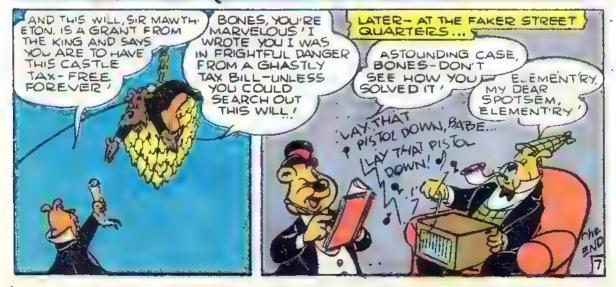


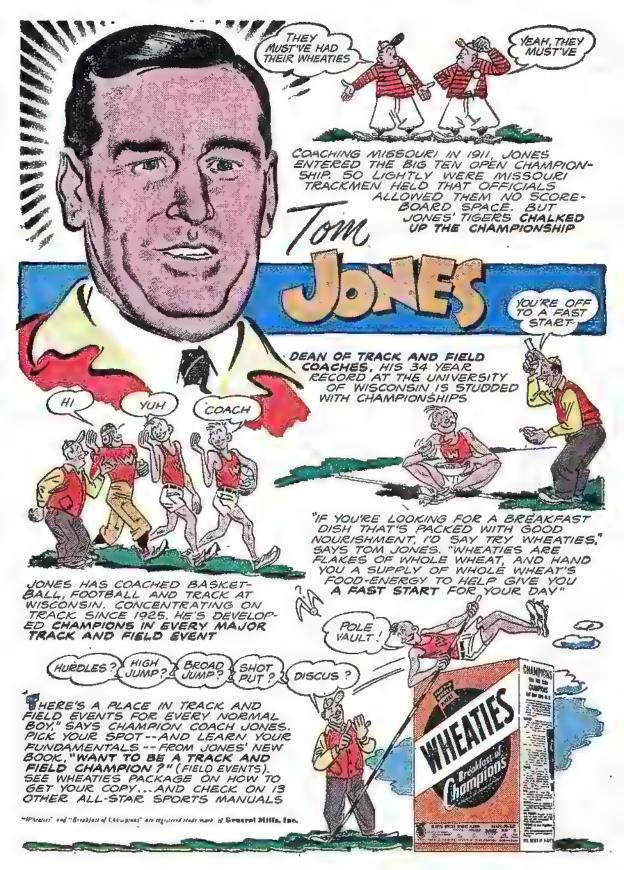






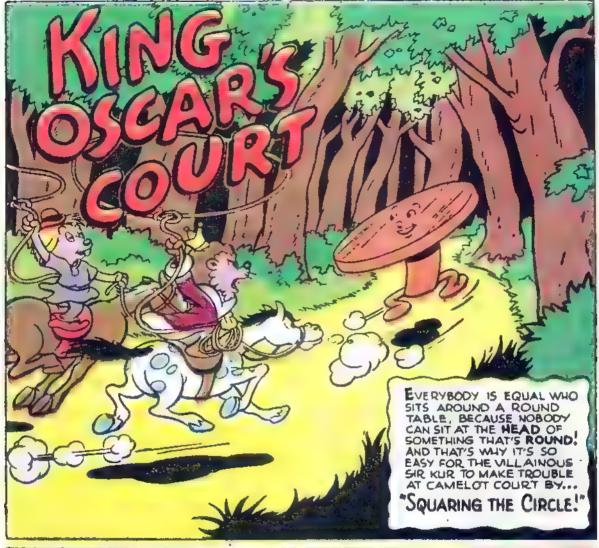
































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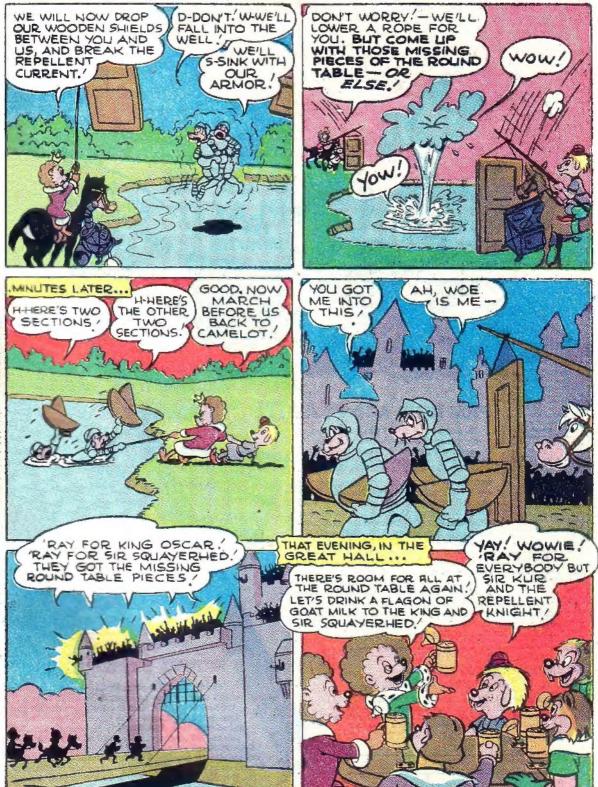














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